



# Interim Report

## MISSOURI ALZHEIMER'S STATE PLAN TASK FORCE

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Alzheimer's disease will not wait. It affects all classes of people across all regions of the country. There are 5.4 million Americans with Alzheimer's – 110,000 here in Missouri. It is the 6th leading cause of death and the only one among the top ten without a way to cure, prevent or slow the progression of the disease.

The Missouri Alzheimer's State Plan Task Force was commissioned by the 95th General Assembly to address the Alzheimer's crisis in Missouri. The 19 member task force developed a plan that focuses on five key goals. These goals were a result of the input gathered from hundreds of participants at community forums across the state regarding Alzheimer's disease:

- Promote access to statewide expert diagnostic services that can lead to early intervention and support.
- Create a Road Map for care and support that provides quality information on services across the continuum from early diagnosis to end of life.
- Provide a wide array of community and home based services that may offer more cost-effective options for the rapidly increasing number of Missourians with Alzheimer's and for their caregivers.
- Ensure a sufficient, dementia conscious, quality workforce at all levels of the care continuum.
- Maintain Missouri's status as a research leader in Alzheimer's disease and related disorders.

The prevalence of Alzheimer's continues to increase and the Missouri economy continues to struggle. In this challenging environment, the Alzheimer's State Plan Task Force has focused on advancing these five goals by building on existing resources, leveraging public / private partnerships, focusing on areas of greatest need, and promoting Missouri as a world leader in Alzheimer's research.

**See reverse side for a list of  
2011 highlights and activities.**

## Highlights - 2011 Activities

- The Department of Health and Senior Services is implementing **Project Learn MORE**, a statewide project that builds on partnerships between the Alzheimer's Association Chapters and Area Agencies on Aging. Funded by the Administration on Aging, Project Learn MORE is designed to establish a unified system of screening, referral, care planning and service for Missouri citizens with Alzheimer's and related dementias.
- To increase detection, diagnostic services, and knowledge about supportive services among health care professionals, the task force identified twenty-five statewide health care conferences as opportunities for education. Six presentations are scheduled for 2012.
- A Road Map Workgroup was established and charged with identifying existing resources that will provide Missourians with quality information on Alzheimer's services. The **Alzheimer's Navigator** is an online assessment program designed to help caregivers and individuals with dementia evaluate their needs, execute action steps and connect with local programs and services. The program will be launched in the spring of 2012.
- Alzheimer's Service Grants** fund respite care programs across Missouri. Unfortunately, the demand for assistance far outweighs the available resources. The task force recommends increased state appropriations for Alzheimer's Service Grants in order to better support families caring for their loved ones at home.
- To gain a better understanding of long term care insurance in Missouri, the task force researched and published a white paper, included in this report, on long term care insurance coverage.
- The task force recommends that Missouri seek approval from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services for a 1915c Home and Community Based waiver. This would provide a more cost effective alternative to institutional care that addresses the gap in services for individuals with Alzheimer's and related dementias.
- The task force recommends that the Department of Health and Senior Services address current inconsistencies and strengthen regulatory language to ensure compliance with dementia training requirements as outlined in state statute (660.050.RSMO) and new CMS requirements (Section 6121 of the Affordable Care Act).
- Missouri is a world leader in Alzheimer's research. In 2011, approximately \$22 million in federal and foundation grants were awarded to Missouri Alzheimer's researchers. The task force supports the reinstatement of funding to the Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders Project and the passage of SB482 and HB 1216, which would increase individual research grants from \$30,000 to \$50,000.

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